

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 23 with the following paragraph:

When said opener member 3 is constituted by a terminal portion 14 of the thread 12 sewn with a chain stitch, the safety means 21 is advantageously constituted by a loop 20 interacting with two chain stitches ~~[[21]]~~ 31 and ~~[[22]]~~ 32 of said terminal portion 14, possibly two successive stitches, so as to prevent any running of the chain stitches in cascade situated downstream therefrom, i.e. beyond the two stitches ~~21, 22~~ 31, 32 and the sewn portion 19, when traction is applied to the terminal portion 12A.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 18 with the following paragraph:

The sleeve 5 in the closed configuration is engaged via its distal end 5C inside the hollow tube forming the jig 23, while the proximal portion 24 of the sleeve 5 that does not lie inside the hollow tube 23 is turned inside out so as to cover the outside of said tube ~~[[3]]~~ 23.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 23 with the following paragraph:

This provides a hollow tube ~~[[3]]~~ 23 whose inside and outside walls are covered and sheathed, at least in part, by the sleeve 5. One of the openings 23A of the hollow tube 23, referred to below as its inlet opening, corresponds to the opening where the cross-section of the hollow tube 23 is covered by the fold 26 formed by the sleeve 5 on the tube 23.